

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-01

CEA-01 AGR-05 FEA-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 INT-05 /105 W

----- 031239

R 312015Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5432

INFO AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

AMCONSUL MERIDA

AMCONSUL MONTERREY

AMCONSUL TIJUANA

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS

AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, MX, CU, XM

SUBJECT: MEXICAN-CUBAN DISCUSSION OF NEW LATIN ECONOMIC
ORGANIZATION (SELA)

PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

REFS: A. MEXICO 10012; B. CARACAS 12094 (NOTAL);
C. SAN JOSE 4875 (NOTAL); D. MEXICO 10706 (NOTAL)

1. MEXICAN SECRETARY OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY FLORES DE LA
PENA VISITED HAVANA DECEMBER 27 TO 30 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH
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PRIME MIN FIDEL CASTRO AND OTHER GOC OFFICIALS ON THE MEXICAN-

VENEZUELA PROPOSED SELA AS WELL AS OTHER FOREIGN POLICY AND TRADE SUBJECTS. IT WAS HIS THIRD VISIT TO CUBA THIS YEAR.

2. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN HAVANA DECEMBER 30, FLORES DE LA PENA ANNOUNCED THAT CASTRO SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF SELA AND THAT HE EXPECTS PRESIDENTS ECHEVERRIA AND PEREZ TO ISSUE A FORMAL CALL FOR THE FORMATION OF SELA DURING PEREZ'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO MEXICO THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975. HE NOTED THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORGANIZATION WOULD BE LIMITED EXCLUSIVELY TO LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN NATIMNS AND THAT THEREFORE HE HAD NO DOUBT USG WOULD OPPOSE ITS CREATION. (IN AN EARLIER INTERVIEW, FLORES STATED THAT SELA WOULD "SERVE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO DEFEND BASIC MATERIALS SUCH AS COFFEE, SUGAR, LEAD, ZINC, SILVER AND NICKEL.")

3. IN HIS DEC. 30 PRESS CONFERENCE, FLORES DE LA PENA ALSO STATED THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF SYMPATHY IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES IN MEXICO TOWARD CUBA AS IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE VISIT OF A SPECIAL CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC MISSION TO CUBA NEXT MONTH UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MRS. ECHEVERRIA (SEE REFTEL D). HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT MEXICO IS PREPARED TO OFFER CUBA ITS "SURPLUS" OIL AND TO COLLABORATE IN EXPLOITING NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE NEWLY DISCOVERED PHOSPHORUS DEPOSITS IN BAJA CALIFORNIA.

4. COMMENT: AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY (SEE REF A), PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS GIVEN FLORES DE LA PENA PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR OBTAINING LATIN SUPPORT FOR THE SELA PROPOSAL. HE, IN TURN, APPARENTLY HAS PLACED GREAT EMPHASIS ON KEY ROLE INTENDED FOR CUBA WITHIN THIS SYSTEM.
JOVA

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ARA POSTS.

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